

11/25/98

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
463

Total Pages in this Submission

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TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTSBox Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231JC501 U.S. PTO
01/1993/78

11/25/98

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE

and invented by:

Claus-Chr. ECKHARDTIf a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information: Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: 08/799,274

Which is a:

 Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Which is a:

 Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. Specification having 17 pages and including the following:
 - a. Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. Cross References to Related Applications (*if applicable*)
 - c. Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (*if applicable*)
 - d. Reference to Microfiche Appendix (*if applicable*)
 - e. Background of the Invention
 - f. Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. Brief Description of the Drawings (*if drawings filed*)
 - h. Detailed Description
 - i. Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. Abstract of the Disclosure

Express Mail Mailing Label	
Number	EI 081468224 US
Date of Deposit	NOV. 24 1998
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.	

[Signature]

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Application Elements (Continued)

3. Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
 - a. Formal Number of Sheets 4
 - b. Informal Number of Sheets _____
4. Oath or Declaration
 - a. Newly executed *(original or copy)* Unexecuted
 - b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
 - c. With Power of Attorney Without Power of Attorney
 - d. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. Computer Program in Microfiche *(Appendix)*
7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
 - a. Paper Copy
 - b. Computer Readable Copy *(identical to computer copy)*
 - c. Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

8. Assignment Papers *(cover sheet & document(s))*
9. 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement *(when there is an assignee)*
10. English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
11. Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
12. Preliminary Amendment
13. Acknowledgment postcard
14. Certificate of Mailing

First Class Express Mail *(Specify Label No.):* EI 081468224 US

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Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*

16. Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME (1 MONTH)

Fee Calculation and Transmittal

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	14	- 20 =	0	x \$22.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	1	- 3 =	0	x \$82.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
					BASIC FEE \$760.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose) <u>PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME</u>					\$110.00
					TOTAL FILING FEE \$870.00

A check in the amount of \$870.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 19-4675 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Charge the amount of _____ as filing fee.

Credit any overpayment.

Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.

Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).


 Signature

Dated: NOVEMBER 24, 1998

CC:

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner:

Art:

In re:

Applicant:

C. Eckhardt

*Divisional Application of Patent
Application Serial No.:*

08/799,274

Filed:

Simultaneously

SIMULTANEOUS AMENDMENT

November 23, 1998

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Simultaneously with filing of the above identified application,
please amend the same as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claim 1 without prejudice.

Amend the following claims:

Claim 2, line 1, replace "1" with -- 16 --.

Claim 4, line 4, replace "releasable connection" with --
releasably connecting means --.

Claim 5, line 1, replace "1" with -- 16 --.

Claim 6, line 1, replace "1" with -- 16 --.

Claim 8, line 1, replace "1" with -- 16 --.

Claim 11, line 1, replace "1" with -- 16 --.

Claim 12, line 1, replace "1" with -- 16 --.

Claim 15, line 1, after "device;" insert -- a decorative part --.

Cancel claim 1 without prejudice.

Add the following claim:

16. An appliance, comprising an indicating device; a decorative part; means forming a wall having an outer surface with a central region and an inner surface, said wall being provided with a throughgoing opening which extends from said outer surface to said inner surface of said wall and receives said indicating device, said wall also having a surrounding edge region which surrounds said throughgoing opening and is depressed relative to said outer surface of said wall so as to form a depression, said decorative part being formed as a structural element which is separate from said indicating device and being inserted in said depression of said edge region; and means for releasably connecting said decorative part with said edge region independently from said indicating device, so that said decorative part can be removed from said depression of said edge region of said wall without said indicating device and replaced by another decorative part inserted in said depression of said edge region of said wall.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of the application. With the present Amendment most probably applicant has canceled the original claim 1 and submitted a new claim 16 which is the broadest claim on file. The retained dependent claims have been amended to depend on this claim.

Claim 16, the broadest claim currently on file, specifically defines that the decorative part and the indicating device are different structural elements which are independent from one another. Also, this claim specifically defines that the indicating device is arranged in a throughgoing opening of the wall of the device, or in other words the opening which extends from the outer surface to the inner surface of the wall of the device, while the decorative part is arranged in a depression which just is offset relative to the outer surface of the wall and provided in the edge region which surrounds the throughgoing opening. The support for these features can be found in the second paragraph of page 7, on the first paragraph of page 8 as well as in Figure 3 and other parts of the application.

Turning now to the references and in particular to the patent to Oliwa, it can be seen that this reference discloses a device with an outer

surface 11 provided with a depression 20. A display module with the indicating device and decorative part is insertable in the depression 20.

In contrast, in accordance with the applicant's invention the wall of the device is provided with a throughgoing opening in which the indicating device is received. Such a throughgoing opening is not disclosed in the patent to Oliwa. The throughgoing opening in the device surface 11 of the reference shown in Figure 3 is designed for receiving a magnet 56 for mounting the display module in the depression 20 of the device outer surface 11.

In accordance with applicant's invention, the indicating device and the decorative part as well as cooperating structure are formed completely different. The throughgoing opening is formed for receiving the indicating device, while in contrast the edge region which surrounds the throughgoing opening is provided with a depression which serves for receiving the decorative part. These features are not disclosed in the patent to Oliwa and can not be derived from it as a matter of obviousness.

A person skilled in the art with the teaching of the reference in front of him must remove the indicating device from the display module 12 and instead of the magnets 56 arrange it in the throughgoing opening of the

device outer surface 11 so that a decorative part remains in the depression 20 of the device outer surface 11. However, no hint or suggestion are provided in the reference for these features. In order to arrive at the applicant's invention from this reference the reference has to be fundamentally modified by including into it such features which are not disclosed in the references, can not be considered as obvious from the references, and therefore can not be derived from the reference as a matter of obviousness.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is believed that claim 16, the broadest claim on file, should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

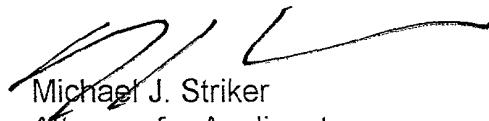
As for the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 16, they share its presumably allowable features and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in

formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Any costs involved should be charged to the deposit account of the undersigned (No. 19-4675). Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 516-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, CLAUS-CHR. ECKHARDT, a citizen of
Germany, whose post office address is, respectfully, Sallstr. 41, 30171 Hannover,
Germany, have invented certain new and useful improvements in:

APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE

of which the following is a complete specification:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to an appliance with an indicating device.

Appliances of the above mentioned general type are known in the art. In particular, an appliance is known which is formed as a cordless telephone with an outer surface provided with a throughgoing passage for receiving an indicating device. An edge region which surrounds the throughgoing opening of the appliance is depressed relative to the outer surface of the appliance. The edge region operates as a supporting surface for a transparent disk for covering an indicating device which is formed for example as a display.

Moreover, it is known to decorate the edge region, for example by applying a granulate or a lacquer.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an appliance with an indicating device which is further improvement of the existing appliances.

In keeping with these objects and with others which will become apparent hereinafter, one feature of the present invention resides in an appliance, in which on the edge region, a decorative part is insertable, and is mountable on the edge region by a releasable connection.

When the appliance is designed in accordance with the present invention, the decorative part is provided which in a simple manner without damaging the appliance housing is mounted on the edge region or can be premounted on it. In this way the consumer must not look for an experienced person and without loosing a guarantee can exchange the decorative part in accordance with its taste and replace with another decorative part, so that the outer surface of the housing can be designed individually. For example, the consumer can use a different decorative part which are sold by the manufacturer.

In accordance with another feature of the present invention, the releasable connection can be formed as an adhesive connection. Such a connection is especially stable.

In accordance with still a further feature of the present invention, the releasable connection can be formed as an arresting connection. In this way the decorative part can be stably connected with the edge region, and also a simple and accurately defined mounting or dismounting can be performed by means of the available arresting elements.

In accordance with still a further feature of the present invention, a gap is provided between the decorative part and the edge region for receiving for example a turning tool for releasing the connection. In this manner, the dismounting can be performed simply and does not need special finger strength.

In accordance with still a further feature of the present invention, the edge region can be depressed by two steps relative to the outer surface of the appliance, so as to include a deeper step for limiting the throughgoing passage in which a transparent disk covering the indicating device is placed, and a higher step on which the decorative part is placed. In this way, the covering of the indicating device and the decoration can be

0 applied independently from one another on the housing or removed from the housing.

The novel features which are considered as characteristic for the present invention are set forth in particular in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its construction and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be best understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a view of an operating surface of a cordless telephone in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a spacial view of a display-end decorating region of the cordless telephone;

Figure 3 is a view showing a section through an edge region with a glued decorative part;

Figure 4 is a view showing a section of the edge region with an arresting projection and an arresting opening;

Figure 5 is a view showing a section through the edge region with an arresting projection of the decorative part engaging in the edge region; and

Figure 6 is a view showing a section through the edge region with the arresting projection of the edge region engaging in the decorative part.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 shows an appliance in accordance with the present invention which is formed as a cordless telephone 1. Its operating surface shown in Figure 1 is identified with reference numeral 90. An indicating device 5 is inserted in the operating surface 9 and covered by a transparent disk 75. The indicating device 5 and the transparent disk 75 are surrounded by a decorative part 25. The decorative part 25 also surrounds five keys 85 of the key field on the operating surface 90. For this purpose the decorative part 25 is provided with throughgoing openings for receiving the indicating device 5 and for receiving the keys 85. The operating surface 90 of the cordless telephone 1 also has twelve keys 80 located outside of the decorative part 25.

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Figure 2 shows the outer surface 10 of the cordless telephone 1 from the side of the operating surface 90. The outer surface 10 of the appliance has a throughgoing opening 15 for receiving the indicating device 5, as well as an edge region 20 which surrounds the throughgoing opening 15 and is depressed with two stages relative to the outer surface 10 of the appliance. A deeper stage 65 of the two-stage edge region 20 which limits the throughgoing opening 15 serves for supporting a transparent disk 75 which covers the indicating device 5. A higher step 70 of the two-step edge

0 region 20 serves for supporting the decorative part 25. The higher stage 70 of the two-edge region has also five throughgoing openings 86 for receiving the keys 85 located inside the decorative part 25. For the keys 80 located outside of the decorative part 25, throughgoing openings 81 are provided correspondingly in the outer surface 10 of the appliance.

5 The decorative part 25 is inserted on the edge region 20 and mounted on the edge region 20 by a releasable connection. The releasable connection can be formed for example as an adhesive connection. As can be seen in a vertical cross-section A-A in the edge region 20 of the cordless telephone 1, in Figure 3 the mounting of the decorative part 25 on the edge region 20 is shown. The decorative part 25 is connected by a double-side adhesive band 30 with the higher stage 70 of the two-stage edge region 20. A gap 35 is formed between the decorative part 25 and the higher stage 70, toward the deeper stage 65 of the two-stage edge region 20 through the double-sided adhesive band 30.

15 The transparent disk 75 is located on the deeper stage 65. The connection between the transparent disk 75 and the deeper stage 65 is not shown, however it also can be performed by adhesive. A second gap 95 is formed between the transparent disk 75 on the one hand and the decorative part 25 and the higher stage 70 on the other hand. Together with

0 the first gap 35, the second gap 95 allows outer access for releasing of the connection. The releasing of the adhesive connection can be performed for example manually. The first gap 35 can also serve for receiving a turning tool, so that when the turning tool is placed on the edge of the transparent disk 75 a lever action can be applied to the adhesive connection without high efforts and without damaging the edge region 20 so that the transparent disk 75 can be released. Figure 3 shows the outer surfaces of the decorative part 25 and the transparent disk 75, as well as the outer surface 10 of the appliance which are arranged in one plane. The decorative part 25 has the same width as the higher step 70. From the design reasons, however other dimensions are recommended as well.

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0 55. Further arresting projections and arresting openings can be provided in
the part of the edge region 20 which is not shown in Figure 4. For illustration
of the arresting connection, Figure 5 shows a vertical cross-section B-B
through the edge region 20 at the location of the arresting opening 55, and
Figure 6 shows a vertical section C-C through the edge region 20 at the
location of the arresting projection 50.

5 In contrast to Figure 3, the decorative part 25 in Figure 5 is
connected with the higher step 70 of the two-step edge region not by an
adhesive layer. Moreover, the decorative part 25 at its side facing the edge
region 20 has an arresting projection 40 which engages in the arresting
opening 55 of the higher step 70 of the edge region 20, which faces the
decorative part 25. The arresting opening 55 opens between the higher step
70 and the deeper step 65 in direction toward the transparent disk 70. The
transparent disk 70 is placed on the deeper step 65 and separated from the
higher step 70 by a second gap 95. In particular, the arresting opening 55
15 opens into a first gap 35 for receiving the arresting projection of the
decorative part 25. The arresting projection 40 can be simply pressed back
through the first and second gaps 35, 95 by hand or in a simple manner by
a turning tool, so that the decorative part 25 is removable.

0 In Figure 6 the arresting projection 50 of the higher step 70 of
the two-step edge region 20, which faces the decorative part 25, engages
an arresting opening 45 of the decorative part 25 which faces the higher step
70. In contrast to Figure 3, no adhesive layer is provided between the
decorative part 25 and the higher step 70. The arresting opening 45 of the
decorative part 25 which faces the higher step 70 opens into the first gap 35
5 for receiving the arresting projection 50 of the higher step 70. The first gap
35 is oriented toward the transparent disk 75 which is placed on the deeper
stage 65 and is separated by a first gap 95 from the higher step 70. The
arresting projection 50 of the higher step 70 of the edge region 20 is pressed
back by hand or simply by a turning tool through the first and the second
gaps 35, 95, so that the decorative part 25 can be removed in a simple
manner.

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15 The decorative part 25 can be formed as a synthetic plastic
part, as a wood part, or as a metal part, formed for example as a foil or as a
rigid part. The application of this invention is not only a cordless telephone,
but also any appliance in which an indicating device is surrounded by a
decorative part. It can be also a radio device which an image screen on the
outer surface of the appliance is surrounded by a decorative part, etc.

0 It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or two or more together, may also find a useful application in other types of constructions differing from the types described above.

5 While the invention has been illustrated and described as embodied in appliance with decorative device, it is not intended to be limited to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may be made without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

10 Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.

15 What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1 1. An appliance, comprising an indicating device; means forming an
2 outer surface provided with a throughgoing opening for receiving said indicating
3 device; means forming an edge region which surrounds said throughgoing
4 opening and is depressed relative to said outer surface, said edge region being
5 formed so that a decorative part is insertable in said edge region; and means
6 for releasably connecting said decorative part with said edge region.

1 2. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said means for
2 releasably connecting is formed as an adhesive connection.

1 3. An appliance as defined in claim 2, wherein said adhesive
2 connection includes a double-sided adhesive band.

1 4. An appliance as defined in claim 2, wherein said decorative
2 part has a side facing toward said edge region and is provided at said side
3 with an adhesive surface which is self-adhesively connected with said edge
4 region, so as to form said releasable connection.

1 5. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said decorative
2 part has a further throughgoing opening for receiving said indicating device.

6. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said decorative
part has a plurality of additional throughgoing openings for receiving keys.

1 7. An appliance as defined in claim 5, wherein said decorative
2 part has a plurality of additional throughgoing openings for receiving keys.

8. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said releasable connection includes an arresting connection.

9. An appliance as defined in claim 8, wherein said arresting connection includes an arresting projection provided on said decorative part and an arresting opening provided on said edge region in which said arresting projection is engageable.

10. An appliance as defined in claim 8, wherein said arresting connection includes an arresting projection formed in said edge region, and an arresting opening provided in said decorative part in which said arresting projection is arrestable.

11. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said decorative part and said edge region are arranged so that a gap is provided

1 between said decorative part and said edge region for receiving a tool in
2 order to release said connection.

1 12. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said edge
2 region is depressed in a two-step manner relative to said outer surface.

1 13. An appliance as defined in claim 12, wherein said edge
2 region has a deeper step which limits said throughgoing opening; and further
3 comprising a transparent disk which covers said indicating device and is
4 placed on said deeper step.

1 14. An appliance as defined in claim 12, wherein said edge
2 region has a higher step on which said decorative part is placed.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An appliance has an indicating device, means forming an outer surface provided with a throughgoing opening for receiving the indicating device, means forming an edge region which surrounds the throughgoing opening and is depressed, the edge region being formed so that the decorative part is inserted in the edge region, and a releasable connection between the decorative part and the edge region.

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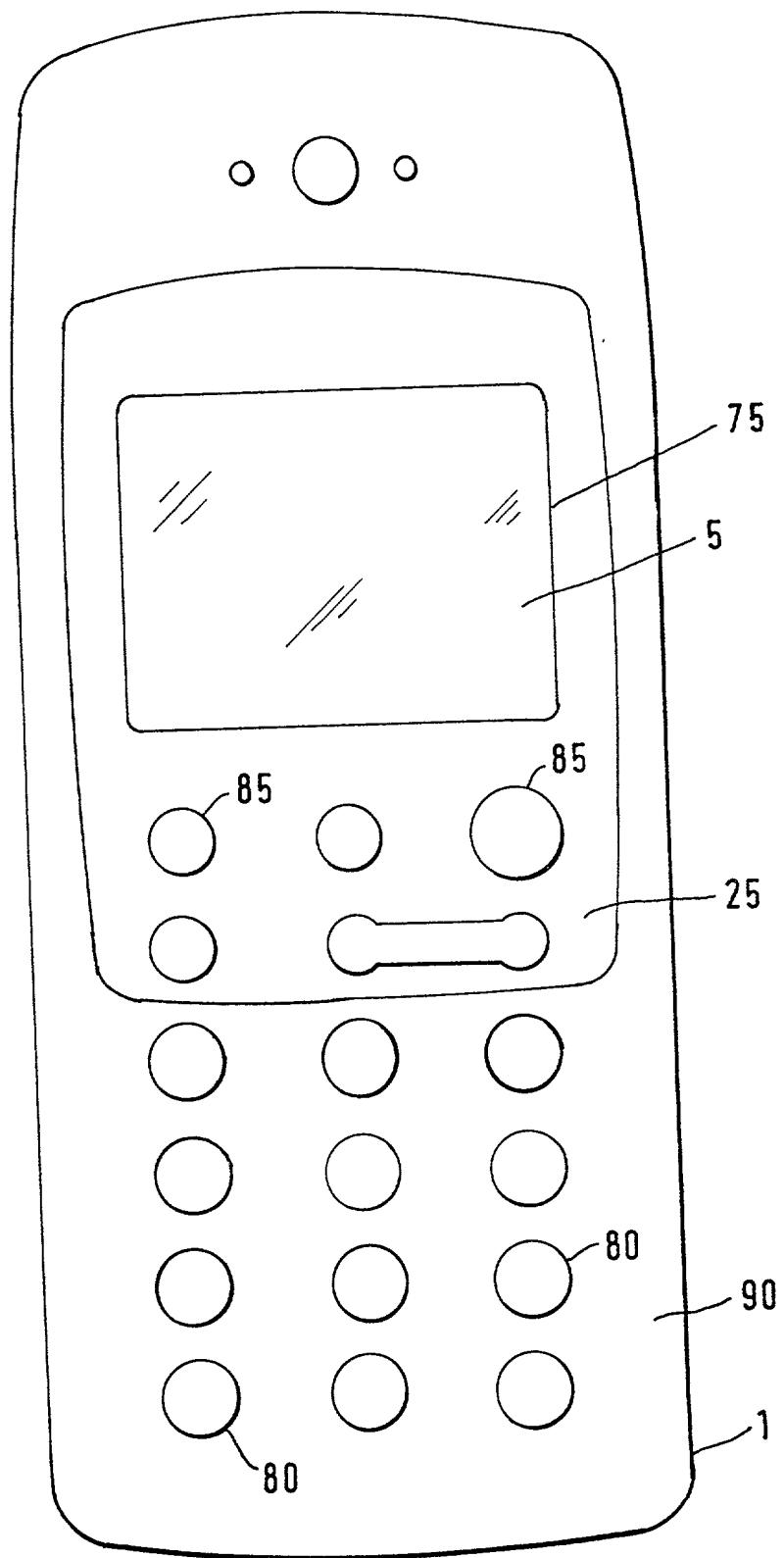


FIG. 1

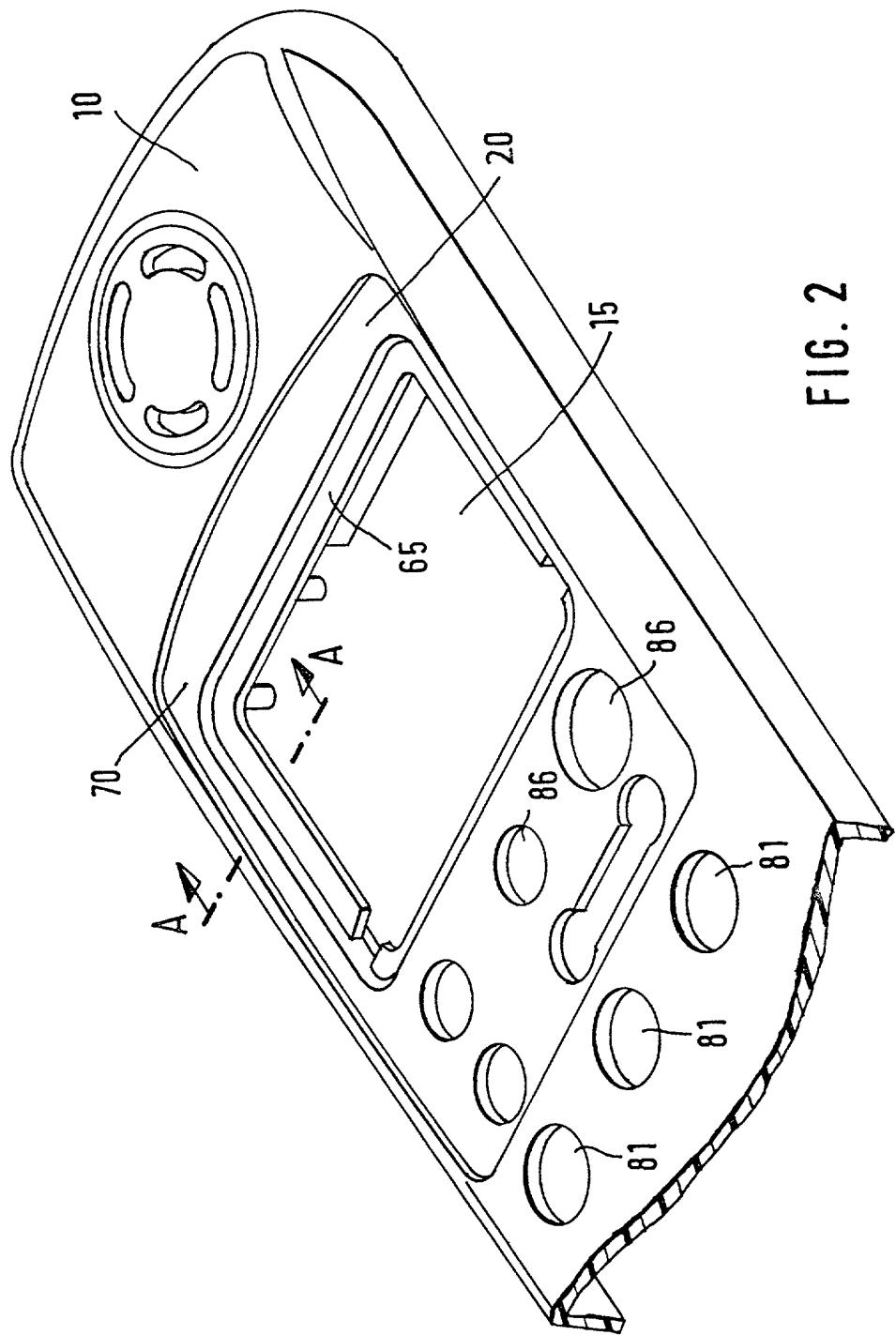


FIG. 2

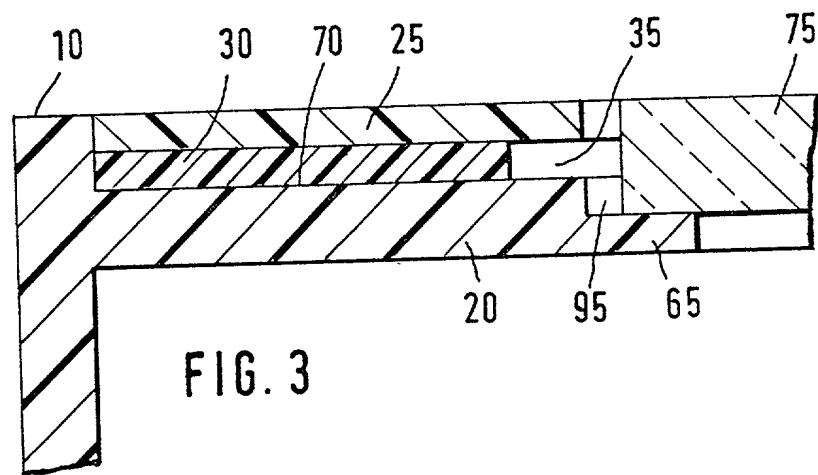


FIG. 3

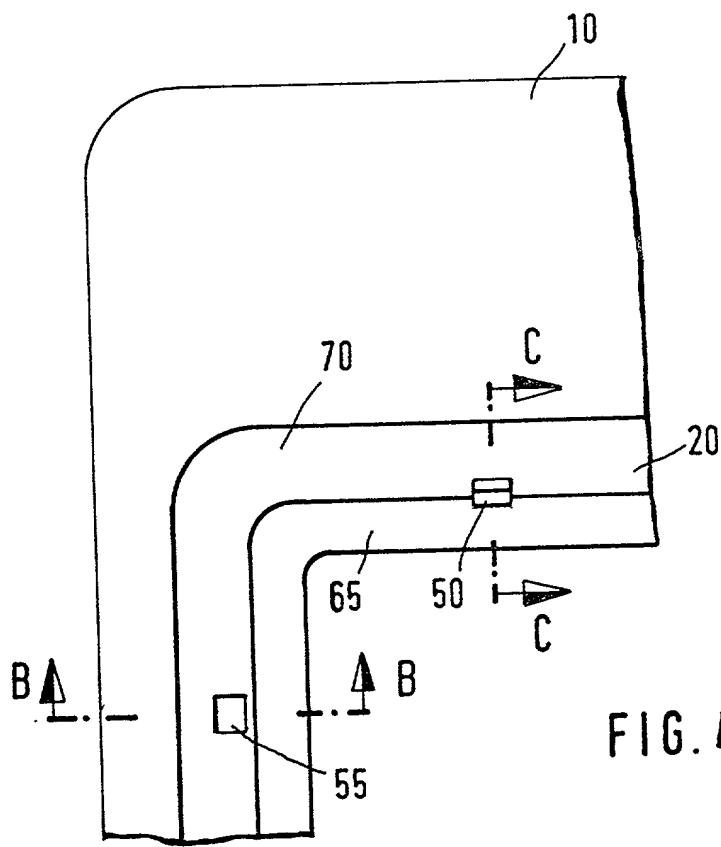
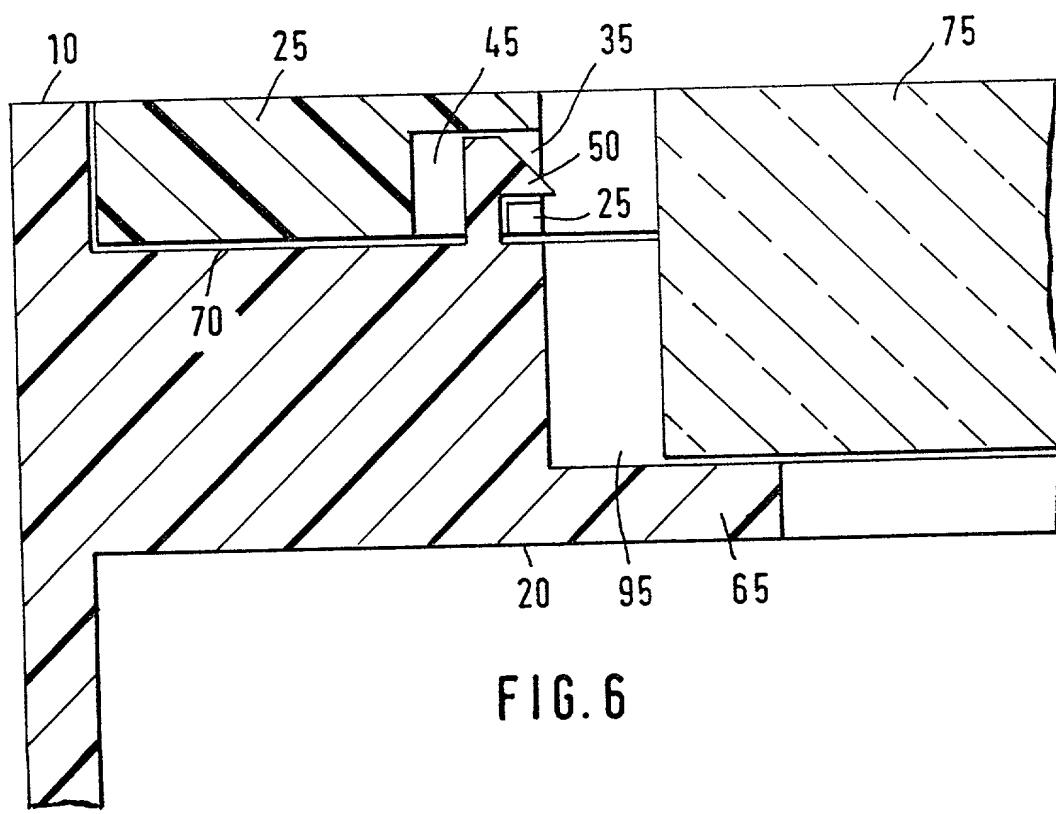
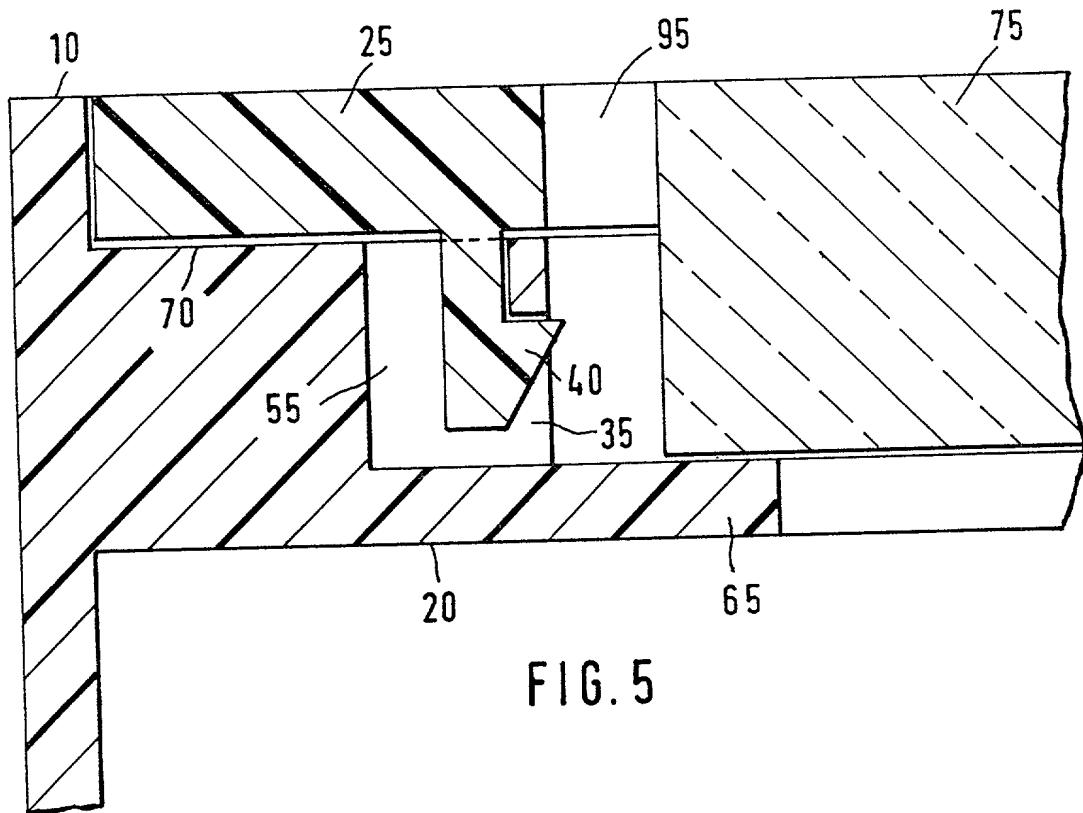


FIG. 4



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER
OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Claus-Chr. ECKHARDT

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention.

APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE

the specification of which:

(Check one) is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____ as

Application Serial No. _____ and

was amended on _____
(if applicable)

was amended through _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section § 119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

Priority Claimed

Priority Number	Country	Date filed (Priority Date)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
2 96 02 545.3	GERMANY	February 14, 1996		
Priority Number	Country	Date filed (Priority Date)	Yes	No
Priority Number	Country	Date filed (Priority Date)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 35, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a), which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - Patented, pending, abandoned)
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(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - Patented, pending, abandoned)
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(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - Patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that those statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

The undersigned hereby authorizes **Michael J. Striker** and the firm of **Striker, Striker & Stenby**, to accept and follow instructions from:

ROBERT BOSCH GMBH

as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between Michael J. Striker, the firm of Striker, Striker & Stenby, and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, Michael J. Striker and the firm of Striker, Striker & Stenby will be so notified by the undersigned.

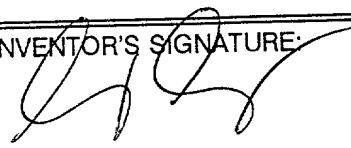
I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: Claus-Chr. ECKHARDT	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	DATE: 13.01.97
RESIDENCE: Sallstr. 41 30171 Hannover GERMANY	CITIZENSHIP: German	

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